

REMARKS

Claims 3-8 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-2 have been canceled and claims 3 and 6-8 have been amended. In the outstanding Office Action, claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The Office Action also indicated that claims 3-8 contained allowable subject matter. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 3-8.

35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The amendment to claim 7 corrects the lack of antecedent basis identified in the Office Action. Therefore, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The cancellation of these claims renders this rejection moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicated that claims 3-8 contained allowable subject matter, but these claims were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Claims 3, 6 and 8 have been amended to place these claims in independent form. Accordingly, claims 3-8 are in condition for allowance.

In the event that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, making reference to attorney docket number 100341-00019.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: RCE Transmittal

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